

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IEDC announces second wave of Shovel Ready sites through pilot program

INDIANAPOLIS (October 3, 2006) — The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) today announced the certification of six Shovel Ready sites through a new pilot program geared toward improving the marketability of individual communities in the site selection process. The six new sites will join six sites previously certified in June to complete the pilot program's initial round of Shovel Ready sites. Second round applications will be available through the IEDC beginning Oct. 16.

"With more and more companies looking for sites where they can have a shovel in the ground as quickly as possible, this program will help give Indiana an advantage when it comes to competing with other states for new investments and new jobs. The program will cut permitting time by up to 30 percent," said Michael S. Maurer, Secretary of Commerce and IEDC president.

The program plays a vital role in state economic development by helping companies identify sites that can be rapidly developed. To be Shovel Ready certified, a site has undergone an environmental process and qualifies for expedited permitting with state regulatory agencies to allow quick investment and expansion plans.

The Shovel Ready Program lowers the cost of site development, improves efficiency of state permitting and enhances the marketability of the site. Because site information is available before development, potential risks of investing and improving new land are reduced for businesses.

"This is another vital tool in our economic development toolbox that will help give Indiana the edge when attracting new and promising investment to the state," said Nathan Feltman, IEDC executive vice president. "Timing is key in any business decision and this program is essential for creating the most business friendly environment in Indiana we possibly can."

Passed in the 2005 legislative session as part of Governor Daniels' jobs agenda, Shovel Ready sites are certified by the Fast Access Site Team (FASTeam), which is composed of representatives from the Indiana Finance Authority, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Governor's Office, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana State Department of Homeland Security.

A maximum \$10,000 matching grant is available for eligible expenses to certified sites. Certified sites will be highlighted on the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's Site Section Database, which is an online resource that allows site selection consultants and businesses to research available commercial and industrial properties.

Eligible applicants include the city, town or county in which the proposed site is located or the local economic development organization.

The first sites receiving Shovel Ready certification are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Connersville	Global Commerce Center	Connersville EDC	Chris King 317-788-4551
Harrison County	Harrison County Industrial Park	Harrison County EDC	Darrell Voelker 812-738-2137
Lafayette	Park 350	Lafayette-West Lafayette EDC	Cinda Kelley 765-742-0095
Montpelier	Montpelier Industrial Park	City of Montpelier	Mindy Kenworthy 765-348-4944
Scott County	Industrial Park	Scott County Commissioners	Robert Peacock 812-752-7268
Vanderburgh County	Vanderburgh Industrial Park	Vision E	Ron Keeping 812-491-4761

To learn more about the Shovel Ready Program, visit the Indiana Economic Development Corporation website at www.iedc.in.gov or contact Brad Moore at (317) 233-6796, bmoore@iedc.in.gov.

About IEDC

As a result of legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 2005, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation has replaced the Department of Commerce as the premier entity charged with state economic development. The IEDC has a 12-member board chaired by Governor Mitch Daniels. Indiana Secretary of Commerce Michael S. Maurer is also president of the IEDC. For more information about IEDC, visit www.iedc.IN.gov.

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